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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/604,336	07/11/2003	Ulf STEFANSSON	06730.0054.PCUS00	1335
28694	7590	07/06/2006	EXAMINER	
NOVAK DRUCE & QUIGG, LLP 1300 EYE STREET NW 400 EAST TOWER WASHINGTON, DC 20005			PATEL, VISHAL A	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3673	

DATE MAILED: 07/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/604,336	Applicant(s) STEFANSSON, ULF	
	Examiner Vishal Patel	Art Unit 3673	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>7/11/03</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

1. Claims 6 and 15 are objected to because of the following informalities: Claims 6 should be dependent from claim 2 and claim 15 should be dependent from claim 12, see below 112 rejection. Claim 12 should depend from claim 11. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

3. Claims 6 and 15 recite the limitations "said upper delimitation surface" and "the lower delimitations surface" in lines 3-4. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

4. Claim 10 recites the limitation "said at least one protrusion" in line 8. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

5. Claims 10-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claims 10, line 1, "A component", this language makes the claim unclear because how can A component having a first component part, a second component part and a sealing strip? The component may have two parts but not a sealing strip. So applicant should change the limitation to what the claim represents, ie. A component assembly.

Claim 12, line 7, "the lead-through", this limitations lacks antecedent basis.

Claim 13, the entire claims is unclear to what applicant is trying to claim. It appears that the claims might depend from another claim instead of claim 10. Similarly claim 15 is unclear since it appears that this claim depends from another claim instead of claim 10.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nathan (US. 2,615,741).

Nathan discloses a sealing strip (strip that extends longitudinally in figure 3) made of a substantially incompressible material (this limitations is considered a relative term), the sealing strip having a substantially constant width along a main portion of its length (length in the annular direction and width of strip in longitudinal direction figure 3), at least one protrusion on the sealing strip (protrusion having 15a), the protrusion having a recess (recess in 15a), the recess is a lead-through, the protrusion having a curved inner surface and a curved outer surface (inner and outer surface of the lead-through), the curved outer surface having a radius larger than the curved inner surface (this is the case since one is an inner surface and the outer is an outer surface), the protrusion is between an upper delimitation surface (upper surface adjacent to 13a) and a lower delimitation surface (lower surface being opposite the upper surface) of the strip.

Art Unit: 3673

The sealing strip is designed with a longitudinal direction, which varies in three dimensions.

8. Claims 1-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Hammi (US. 6,761,360).

Hammi discloses a component assembly comprising a first component part (152b) and a second component part (152a), and a sealing strip (10''), which is designed to be inserted into a groove (groove similar to 120) being present on the first component part, wherein the sealing strip exhibits a substantially constant width along the main portion of its length (width of 52a''), the sealing strip having at least one protrusion (protrusion having 46a'' and 46b'') that has a recess (recess between 46a'' and 46b''), the protrusion having an inner surface that has a radius (radius of 46a''), the protrusion having an outer surface that has a radius (radius of 46b'' and 60'' which is large due to the surface being flat), the sealing strip having a lower delimitation surface (33''), the sealing strip having an upper delimitation surface (surface 52a''), the protrusion having an upper delimitation surface (top surface that contacts 152b) and a lower delimitation surface, the protrusion having a height that is smaller than a height of the sealing strip, the groove and the sealing strip are designed in an endless way and the sealing strip and the groove are designed with a longitudinal direction varying in three dimensions. The recess is designed as a lead through (this is the case since the groove is continuous and not ever blocked).

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Wambeke et al, Whipps, Schluter and Incoing.

Art Unit: 3673

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vishal Patel whose telephone number is 571-272-7060. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am to 8:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Patricia L. Engle can be reached on 571-272-6660. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

VP
June 28, 2006

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vishal Patel', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Vishal Patel
Primary Examiner
Tech. Center 3600